



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Iyyar + Sivan + Tamuz 5770 ■ May + June 2010

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

CSZ Annual Membership Meeting
MONDAY, MAY 17, 6:00 PM DINNER/
7:00 PM MEETING

At this meeting members elect new officers and Va'ad members, ratify the budget, honor volunteers, and recap the past year. All members are invited to attend.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 6:30 PM

Ma'ariv at 6:30, dairy potluck, then study sessions till late. Please see page 4-5 for more information.

TransCelebration Shabbat
Shabbat Reuben

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 7:30 PM

Join us to celebrate Shabbat, learn about gender-queer perspectives on the weekly Torah reading, honor our transgender and gender-queer community, and celebrate the ordination of our very own transgender Rabbi Reuben Zellman!

PRIDE AT SHA'AR ZAHAV

CSZ Pride Freedom Seder

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 5:30 PM

Pride Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 7:30 PM

Pride Shabbat Continues

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 10:15 AM

Please see pages 4-5 for more information

Take Pride in Sha'ar Zahav

BY RABBI CAMILLE SHIRA ANGEL

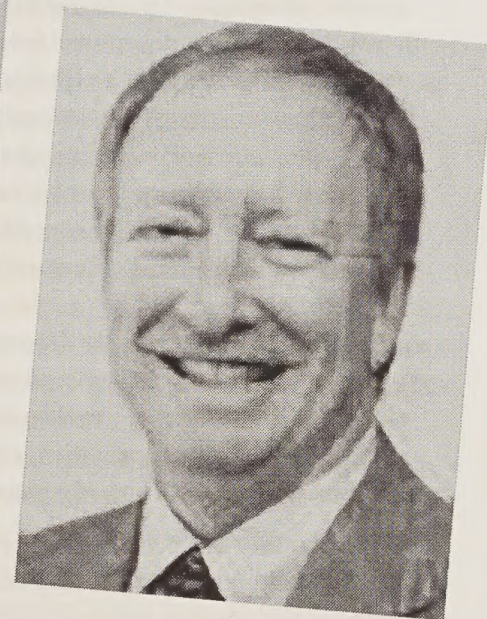
Among the options I can choose from when I google my father-in-law's name is the site for The Mathematics Genealogy Project. Here you can learn that this great mathematician, Irving Segal, had 40 primary disciples who became PhDs under his tutelage and 841 "intellectual descendants." This notion of keeping an account of one's intellectual descendents or intellectual legacy fascinates me. It is a way for us to think about the seemingly immeasurable impact Sha'ar Zahav has on Jews and Judaism.

Over this last year since the publication of *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*, our ability to track our impact has been bolstered by the many testaments people have made in reacting to the siddur's beauty and capacity to transport and translate metaphor into meaning relevant and compelling to our lives.

Attending the 121st CCAR Conference of Reform Rabbis held in San Francisco in March, I felt so proud to be part of this community, which has helped lead and shape Progressive Judaism's many LGBT reforms. We can boast innumerable dynamic rabbis and cantors, educators and communal welfare professionals, who touched down for a time at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Many of my colleagues feel gratitude for Sha'ar Zahav and pride in our success.

As we celebrate Reuben Zellman's rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College this May, we express bursting pride in his accomplishments. I hope you'll come and be part of Shabbat Reuben on May 21 when we will hear from Rabbi Zellman for the first time.

Back at the CCAR, keynote speaker Professor Marc Dollinger, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair of Jewish Studies at SF State, addressed a plenary session filled with over 500 rabbis and friends. He spoke about the ever-changing nature of American Jewish identity and how San Francisco and Bay Area Jews have consistently been at the forefront and cutting edge of what later



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Rabbi's Study



Take Pride in Sha'ar Zahav

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becomes "normative" in mainstream. Dollinger showcased *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav* by making it his paradigmatic example.

"[Jewish identity]'s all quicksand,"

Dollinger said. "The good news is that people have short memories and what is dynamic quicksand in one generation is perceived as rock solid tradition in the next." He continued:

Here in San Francisco, the Jewish community's habit of accommodating to the larger political culture mixed with real-time identity formation at our own Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, an LGBT friendly synagogue that just completed a magisterial project, authoring its own siddur based on years and years of input, perspectives, thoughts, and blessings of its congregants and clergy.

In most of the country, gay and lesbian life remains on the periphery and therefore is not a lifestyle that enjoys wide embrace. In San Francisco, though, the national center of LGBT politics and life, generations of young Jews are raised without thinking twice about homes with two moms or two dads. Like SF Jews in the 1860s and 1960s, they are accommodating to the political culture around them. This time, it's about sexual orientation instead of Zionism or Soviet Jewry.

And the day that siddur, the dynamic and vibrant reflection of a particular moment in SF Jewish identity, was published, it morphed from the quicksand of ever-changing identity to the rock solid status as text that future generations will think is traditional Judaism. And then we'll have to explain it all over again... "

Thank you for the privilege of being your rabbi during this exciting time in Jewish and LGBT history. We are building a movement and forging a vision. Little by little our impact and our legacy are growing. Siddur by siddur, our approach to prayer is being shared around the world. We will likely never know how many people will have been touched by its words, its style, its fullness and its hope. While we may never be able to truly measure the number of descendants we've influenced, we can be sure that our legacy is of legendary proportion.

Mazel Tov to each and every one of you, who have helped to make us what we are. We can truly *shep naches*, take pride in knowing that our contributions have spawned new branches and more fruit that will nourish generations long to come.

Let us rejoice and give thanks, and sings praises for the gift of service and connection we have been offered. Hallelujah! Happy Pride Sha'ar Zahav 5770!

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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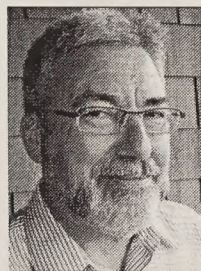
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What Changes— What's Immutable?



MY HOW TIME flies when ...

This will be my last JGF column as president—which stimulates reflection upon the past two years, as well as my past 31 years at CSZ. And musings on coming years as well.

My first awareness of Sha'ar Zahav was in July 1979 when I encountered Shamir Ophul, one of the founders, at the first gay & lesbian demonstration in Tel Aviv. He told me about the congregation—and urged me to visit when we completed our planned move to San Francisco later that summer. My first visit was in fact that September—when Sha'ar Zahav was meeting on Friday nights at the old Jewish Community Center. Now, some 31 years later, I will be stepping down as president this June.

A time-traveler would certainly see some differences in the congregation: a building (our 2nd), a rabbi and a cantor, an educator, lots of children, more non-gay members than ever before and this past year, a professionally-produced siddur that is not only enlivening our services, but gaining attention and praise from Jewish thought leaders throughout the country and beyond. All this from that rather informal, barely-organized group I encountered in 1979 when a social hall was converted into a "sanctuary" by standing a folding table on end and hanging a "Jewish" embroidered cloth on it.

And it's true—there have been many changes. Even some of the key attractions for joining have changed. In 1977, three gay Orthodox Jews organized the first services—a place where they and others of like mind could worship—openly and Jewishly—as gay and lesbians. The first organizing connector was definitely being Jewish and gay or lesbian. Although certainly not everyone who attended was gay, it was clear that we were self-defined and known as the "gay synagogue".

In the 1980s, HIV/AIDS was a dominant force in attracting people and provided a strong connector between mem-

bers. A tradition of mutual caring emerged—as well as the need to address death and dying as important life cycle moments in Jewish tradition. Everything moved very fast, it seemed, as the disease was slowly being better understood, and as we struggled to respond—as individuals and as a community. Many members of my generation were lost—and the congregation's maturation, for reasons we had not desired, was accelerated beyond our expectations.

Paralleling advances in HIV treatment in the 1990s was the emergence of new life in our congregation as children became a growing presence in our community. I have often spoken about the monumental decisions made during this period to recognize the children of our congregation as a communal responsibility—providing an opportunity for all of us to share in the transmission of our Jewish traditions and values to the next generation. We also continue to see more and more non-gay members join our congregation — attracted by our progressive liturgy, our welcoming community, our social justice work, our inclusive Jewish values.

Despite all the changes over these many years, I have to believe that a time traveler would still recognize Sha'ar Zahav. Some underlying principles are immutable. People are drawn to us for our honest spirituality. From the earliest days, we've created liturgy which addresses our needs—and we're still creating it. We've always balanced innovation with links to our traditions. Our lay leadership is now enriched with professional clergy who share in leading our worship—and in educating both leaders and congregants.

People still join for community, for friends, to find a partner, to celebrate life events. That community is now more diverse, more complex—but still engaged and caring.

Concern for social justice has always been a strong connector for our members—evolving from demonstrations in the early 1980s in support of Soviet Jewry to our more recent legislative and lobbying work around uni-

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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SERVICES

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 6:30 PM

Maariv at 6:30, dairy potluck, then study sessions till late. The study sessions will include, but are not limited to: *The Mitzvot: Understanding God's Commandments* with Rabbi Camille Angel; *Mispacha Matters* with Rebecca Weiner; *Leyning the 10 Commandments* with Gabriel Lambert; *Jewish/Muslim Text Study* with Andrew Ramer. For more information, please contact CSZ's office.

Yizkor Shavuot: Service of Remembering

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 10:00 AM

All are welcome to join Sha'ar Zahav as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on Shavuot. Say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

1st Annual Sha'ar Zahav / First Mennonite Church of San Francisco Shabbat Prayer Service

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 7:30 PM

Please join us as we host the members of First Mennonite for our first joint prayer service, at 7:30 PM. Pastor Sheri Hostetler will be giving the sermon. Next year First Mennonite will be hosting us as part of our annual exchange.

Azkarah – A Community Memorial Healing Service

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 6:00 PM

Join with others who are seeking comfort, hope, and healing as we remember our losses, whether recent or past, and come together in community, hope, and prayer. For more information or to have the name

of a loved one read, please contact the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center at 415-750-4197 or jewishhealing@ioaging.org. An informal discussion about our losses begins at 6pm. The service itself starts at 7pm.

Va'ad Installation at Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 7:30 PM

At Sha'ar Zahav, a covenant of leadership exists between our officers and Va'ad members and the Congregation. This annual Kabbalat Shabbat service includes teachings on leadership and the installation of our a new president.

CSZ Pride Freedom Seder

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 5:30 PM

We will explore, with an extremely non-traditional eye, our Jewish/queer history from the earliest days of Torah to the amazing events of the present. Andrew Ramer will lead this, our sixth, seder; wine and juice will be provided; please bring a vegetarian dish to share. \$5 CSZ members; \$10 general public. Space is limited; please register with CSZ at 415-861-6932 or shaun@sahaarzahav.org.

Pride Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 7:30 PM

Come celebrate Shabbat with queer liturgy at the one year anniversary of Sid-dur Sha'ar Zahav. This festive musical service will feature songs from our CSZ Chorus led by Reuben Zellman. We will celebrate among an array of Jewish LGBT Movement Builders, and of course our own fabulous clergy. Come Out and be SEEN!

Pride Morning Shabbat

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 10:15 AM

Join us as we celebrate Pride Shabbat with Rabbis Camille Shira Angel and Dev Felder Noily. In addition, there will be some out-of-town surprise guests. You don't want to miss this special Pride Morning Shabbat!

CLASSES

Deepening the Year Cycle: Living in Jewish Time

**SIX MONDAYS STARTING JULY 19
RABBI DEV FELDER NOILY**

Abraham Joshua Heschel taught that Judaism sanctifies time rather than space. The cycle of the Jewish year takes us on a spiraling journey toward wholeness and holiness. Looking at primary and contemporary sources, this class will dive into the rhythms of Tisha B'Av, Elul & Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot. We'll explore what the next level of engagement might be for each of us, as we enter these holy structures in time and open ourselves up to their sweetness. Contact shaun@shaarzahav.org about cost and to register.

COMMITTEES

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Join us in building relationships and pursuing justice. Our current focus is the new federal health care reform legislation and how we can improve state government so that more money will be available for health care, education, and other good causes. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff, vinicoff@hotmail.com.

Welcoming Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 7:00 – 9:00 PM —OFFSITE

Please join our vibrant, revitalized group as we work to make Sha'ar Zahav the most welcoming environment it can be to both new and longstanding members. Have an idea that you want to contribute? Simply want to build community amongst fantastic people? Come! For more information, please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com or Shelli Rawlings-Fein, shellimf@yahoo.com.

Sing with Pride with the CSZ Chorus!!

LGBT Pride/Freedom Rehearsal Season:

**5 MONDAYS: MAY 24 & 31; JUNE 7, 14, & 21,
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

This year's Pride repertoire will include Israeli composer/arranger Gil Aldema's hilarious choral piece Makhelah Alizah—"The Happy Chorus" or "The Gay Chorus." The chorus, open to all CSZ members, will sing at CSZ's festive Shab-

bat Freedom service. To join the chorus, please contact Reuben Zellman ruben@shaarzahav.org, or (415) 861-6932 ext. 311.

Va'ad Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 6:45 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to CSZ's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

CHAVUROT

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jim Greenberg, jgjb@earthlink.net.

Post Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, MAY 21, ~9:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, ~9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join Sha'ar Zahav's Post Oneg Group for a pay-your-own-way dinner at a local restaurant. We welcome all current, prospective, or new members. For more information, please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com or Tony Enriquez, arnold_enriquez@hotmail.com.

Service Leaders Chavurah

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 7:00 PM

This month, Kevin Johnson will lead a session on utilizing online resources. There will be time for attendees to practice their service leading and receive peer feedback. And we continue to offer Fun! Food! Friends! For more information, please contact Howard Steiermann, (415) 695-9155, HMSinSF@aol.com

What's Immutable?

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versal access to healthcare through the San Francisco Organizing Project.

Education also started early in our history—and continues on many tracks: Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer and b'nei mitzvah training for our children and adult education which includes a strong conversion track and adult studies.

At its core, it's the same shul as the one I encountered in 1979. Details have changed, and will continue to change. Siddur Sha'ar Zahav is an extraordinary accomplishment, but not a culmination of our efforts to create relevant, challenging and meaningful liturgy. We're not done, there will be further editions. And then there's the High Holiday Machzor, our Haggadah, and what all will emerge from the Ritual Committee's new innovation group—or from the Chevra Kadisha group which has been meeting in past months. Our creativity will continue to shape our future spiritual journey.

When I started as president in July 2008, I was keenly aware of and awed by the many leaders before me whose talents and wisdom have guided us through the years. I still am. And now as I prepare to welcome our next president, I know that I'm not finished either. I hope to assist future leaders in those next steps which will shape our history, our community, our legacy—our place in the larger Jewish community. Foremost in my hopes for the continuing development of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav are:

To minimize one of our seemingly

immutable constants—namely, our continued financial insecurity. While we can look to grant money from outside sources for specific projects, I know that we won't be secure until we achieve sufficient membership and a commitment by each of us to making personally meaningful financial contributions through dues and fundraising campaigns to give us the operating funds, building reserves and endowment necessary to provide not only security, but the resources to truly meet the needs of our congregation.

Our Va'ad recently engaged in a budgeting exercise of what we would do with a relatively modest increase in our financial resources. The suggestions included allocating funding for additional rabbinic resources to expand our programming, education and counseling availability, making the cantor position permanent, fully funding building reserves, retiring the mortgage, augmenting our Beit Sefer resources, improving our web and internal IT capacities, improvements to the building and additional publishing projects.

Sounds good to me! Let's all allow ourselves to dream a bit—and imagine what the changes in future years might bring to our congregation. All while preserving those immutable core characteristics. Hmmm... How would you describe the characteristics and values which define Sha'ar Zahav for you? And will you join me even when I'm a Past-President in refining and developing them?

Advertise in the JGF!

Support Sha'ar Zahav and introduce your business to fellow CSZers

Take advantage of our low, low rates plus a deep discount for CSZ members!

1/6 page ad only \$55 for members

1/2 page ad just \$140 for members

Buy a year's worth and save 20%

Why wait? September is our biggest issue.

Contact Jo Ellen (jgkaiser@earthlink.net)

Love talking to people? Do a mitzvah and become the JGF ad salesperson

A Rainbow Connection



THIS YEAR at the Children's Education Board (CEB) retreat in May we will be discussing the role of LGBT inclusion (and its opposite,

homophobia) in our BSPM curriculum. This will be the first time the CEB has sat down at a retreat to discuss the impact and meaning of the mission of LGBT inclusion.

After the retreat I will share our insights and findings, but I thought the topic worthy of discussion even before the retreat. It is important to note that we are one of very few Jewish schools that have a specific mission to focus on LGBT issues and we are also one of a very few schools of any type, secular or religious, that has this charge. Why is our curriculum so different from every other curriculum? Because in our curriculum, we recognize that we must make a intentional effort to be inclusive of LGBT issues, history and narrative. If not here at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.... Then where? If not now.... when?

As many of you are aware, we are not an exclusive LGBT school, though we do have an LGBT educator and teachers. Many of our families are not LGBT and our students are diverse. So why have this focus? What purpose does it serve? And what outcomes might we hope from having this type of inclusive curriculum?

Sadly, I often get reports from my students and families about homophobia at their elementary schools and in the larger world. I still can't believe the ads I saw on television during the Prop 8 campaign and the same tired, offensive homophobic slurs that get bandied about. Our curriculum, our siddur, our mission, these all help to challenge and correct this homophobia and other isms. We hope that our curriculum teaches our students to speak out (which I know our heroic students have done when they have heard racist or homophobic slurs at their schools) and to think and act in way that pursues tzedek-justice. We also hope that the positive supportive environment that we create at BSPM will role-model environments of inclusiveness.

When I was growing up there was a popular adage, "You are what you eat." I would like to expand that and say, "We are what we learn." Even in San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area, cities with large population of LGBT families, there are few designated environments for children from LGBT families to discuss their families openly while feeling completely safe. At a minimum, BSPM provides an environment where our students from LGBT families know that they will be reflected, mirrored, validated and held.

We also know that that this inclusiveness widens to include all the diversity at the school in the myriad of forms it takes in our students and families. We hope that our students come to our school knowing that we make intentional effort to be mindful of racism, sexism, and homophobia.

We have a unique mission as Jewish educators that includes helping our students create Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world. As Jews, we have an obligation to repair the world even if we can not finish the work in our lifetime. I feel buoyed by the progress I have seen in the larger Jewish community towards LGBT issues in the last twenty years; there have been moments that I truly never thought I would live to see (movies about LGBT orthodox Jews, out and proud LGBT populations in Israel, transgender inclusion as a priority issue in the organized Jewish community, etc.). But the work is not done..... and it really is "ours" to if not finish it then to make a conscious effort to make sure that LGBT content finds it's rightful place in all religious school curriculums.

Finally, it is our hope that by continuing to develop LGBT inclusive Jewish curriculum, that we will become a "light upon nations" at least in the Jewish education world, and that our curriculum will be included in all Hebrew schools, so that all students recognize the importance of fighting homophobia and the impact that LGBT people have had on Judaism.

Please let me and CEB members know what is meaningful to you about our LGBT inclusive curriculum and how you think we

FAMILY CALENDAR

Friday Night Live!

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 6:00 PM

Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups and celebrate Shabbat with us. You don't need to know how to read Hebrew; you don't even need to know how to read! Service will be followed by pizza and vegetarian potluck in the Oneg Room. May 7 is our last FNL of the season. We will resume in the fall.

Friday Night Spirit

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 5:45 PM

Join Camp Tawonga's Deborah Newbrun, Isaac Zones, Daniel Meyer-O'Keefe and Brady Gill. Children ages 7 to and their families join us to welcome the Sabbath with some of our favorite Hebrew and English songs (and some really cool new tunes too!) Enjoy dinner after. This service is open to the general public, and is a great way to introduce your friends with children to Judaism at its liveliest.

Community Retreat

JUNE 4-6, WALKER CREEK RANCH

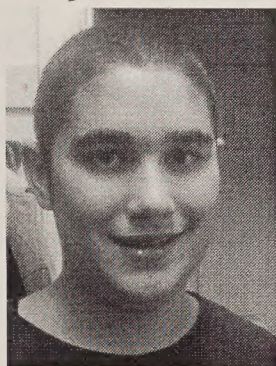
Don't miss our Community Retreat! This year, we offer camping for just \$20 per person per night, plus \$70 for food. If you would like to camp, or stay in one of the cabins, contact Rebecca Weiner ASAP at rebweiner@gmail.com

might continue to develop it. We all know the myth that states at the end of a rainbow is a pot of gold. I think we are helping to create the LGBT inclusive Jewish version of a "pot of gold," which is a community of thoughtful, open minded mensches.

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

B'nei Mitzvah

Benjamin Nathan Malakoff



Benjamin, "Ben" to all his friends will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on May 15, 2010. The Torah portion for Ben's bar mitzvah is "B'midbar", the first portion of

the book of B'midbar, or Numbers and is about counting all of the males of fighting age. Among other passages, Ben will chant about the tribe of Benjamin.

Ben is in 7th grade at Herbert Hoover Middle School in San Francisco. He is continuing in the Spanish language program that he started as a kindergarten at Fairmount Elementary. One of the extracurricular activities that Ben has been involved in is basketball. He played on the Warriors after school team. Ben is one of the biggest kids in his class and so he played center. When he gets to high school, Ben really wants to play football.

He's working hard now to get ready for his bar mitzvah. Avi Goldberg has been his mentor and is a real mensch. Ben has also had the benefit of preparing for his bar mitzvah by sharing a ma'ariv service with Avraham Giannini, and co-leading three Shabbat services with marvelous CSZ service leaders – Howard Stiermann, Richard Meyerson, Ron Edelman, and Cantor Sharon Bernstein. Ben has also prepared for his bar mitzvah by volunteering with Team Tzadek, a program of the Jewish Family and Childrens Services for b'nei mitzvah students.

Giovanni Raff



Giovanni Raff will become Bar Mitzvah on May 22nd at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. He has been a student at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer since third grade. Giovanni

would like to thank the many adults and peers who have helped him prepare for this rite of passage. These include his current teachers, Dev Noily and Rebecca Weiner, as well as Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Rabbi Camille Angel, and of course, his wonderful mentor, Deborah Levy.

Giovanni has worked with Team Tzedak as a part of fulfilling his mitzvot. He helped assemble Chanukah supplies for elderly Jewish clients, as well as helping to deliver nutritious meals to homebound adults in the "Chicken Soupers." program. Giovanni has also completed several shifts at the SF Food Bank, with unusual zeal.

Gio Raff is interested in fun. He loves traveling to new places, especially tropical islands. He loves to swim in pools, the Russian River and even the ocean at Linda Mar Beach. He likes bicycling and skate boarding. He is a good hiker and has traipsed the Billy Goat trail along the Potomac River several times over the past few summers.

Gio is someone who makes and keeps friends easily. He has been identified by peers and teachers as a "peacemaker," who sets a good example, as he is very accepting of others and gets along well with many different types of people. Gio has a wry sense of humor, and enjoys making people laugh. He feels at home at Sha'ar Zahav and has made great friends there. Gio attends Aptos Middle School, and is currently in the seventh grade.

Gio likes to listen to loud Rock music anytime he can. He has played

the drums with friends in a rock band. Rumor has it he is a good dancer. Gio has become an avid reader, in the past two years. He favors books with lots of action, and especially those written by Rick Riordan or James Patterson.

Gio shares a special closeness with his older brother and his cousins, and he receives much affection and encouragement from his extended family.

Giovanni has studied very hard to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, and we plan to celebrate him with gusto.

Zoe Beatrix Kaiser



On Saturday, May 29, Zoe Beatrix Kaiser will be called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah. Her portion is Beha'alotcha. Zoe will take as her text the "Grave of Cravings," exploring why the Jewish wanderers were killed for eating the quail meat they had demanded from God.

Zoe attends Live Oak School, where she has been active in drama. She spends much of her time reading and composing poems—when she is not playing with her cat, Misty, or tending to her lizard.

Zoe and her family would like to thank all the teachers who have made this day possible for her—her Live Oak teachers; her Beit Sefer teachers, particularly Rebecca Weiner; Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein; Jeff Piade, who led two services with Zoe; Rabbi Elliot Kukla, who helped with her drash; and especially Leslie Kane, Zoe's Bat Mitzvah mentor. Thanks also to her extended family for their close support—her Nana and Gramps, Nectar and Frank Kaiser; her Great-Aunt Marian; her Aunt Karri Kaiser and Uncle Joe Falcone, and her grandparents, Theodora and David Green.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18 IYYAR 4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan	19 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	21 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	22 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	23 IYYAR 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	17 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Simcha
25 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	26 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	27 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	28 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	29 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Welcoming Com Mt	1 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	2 SIVAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service and Ben Malakoff's Bar Mitzvah
3 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	4 SIVAN 6:00 pm Member Dinner 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting	5 SIVAN 6:30 pm Tikkun Liel Shavuot	6 SIVAN 10:00 am Yizkor Service Office Closed for Shavuot 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	7 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	8 SIVAN 5:45 pm Friday Night Spirit 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Transcelebration Shabbat 9:00 pm Post-oneg social group	9 SIVAN 9:00am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service and Geo Raff's Bar Mitzvah
10 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	11 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Pride Chorus Rehearsal	12 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	13 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	14 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Service Leaders Chavurah	15 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	16 SIVAN 9:00am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service and Zoe Kaiser's Bat Mitzvah
17 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	18 SIVAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Pride Chorus Rehearsal Office Closed for Memorial Day					

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

24 SIVAN

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

25 SIVAN

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:00 pm Pride Chorus
Rehearsal

26 SIVAN

6:00 pm Azkarah group
7:00 pm Azkarah service

27 SIVAN

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

28 SIVAN

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:00 pm Welcoming com
mt

29 SIVAN

7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Installation of
Va'ad

30 SIVAN

9:00 am Torah Study
10:15 am Shabbat Service

1 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv service

2 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:00 pm Pride Chorus
Rehearsal

3 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

4 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

5 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting

6 TAMUZ

7:30 pm Shabbat Service
9:00 pm Post-oneg Social
Group

7 TAMUZ

9:00 am Torah Study
10:15 am Shabbat Service
5:30 pm Pride Seder

8 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

9 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:00 pm Pride Chorus
Rehearsal

10 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

11 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

12 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
6:30 pm Ritual Committee

13 TAMUZ

7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Pride Shabbat

14 TAMUZ

9:00am Torah Study
10:15 Shabbat Service

15 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

16 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

17 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

18 TAMUZ

6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

Adult Education Fund

Patricia Lin

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Batya Kalis in honor of Shoshana Levenberg's birthday.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in appreciation of Cantor Unplugged III.

Batya Kalis in appreciation of Cantor Bernstein.

CSZ Siddur Bookplates

Rhoda Bernstein in honor of Ilana Bernstein & Diane Desmond.

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Nancy Kates in memory of Marshall S. Kates.

Eliot Nerenberg & Amy Jaffe in memory of Izze Lahn-Schroeder's grandparents, Dan & Anita Lahn.

Beth Rubenstein & Evan Markiewicz in honor of Elana Robinson-Lynch. in honor of Jeff Piade.

General Fund

Lorne Abramson & Elana Leiberman in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk

Allan Berenstein in memory of Raymond Carlson.

in memory of Mike Rodetsky, Isabel Fishman, Ron Gertz and Norma Faini-Pick.

in memory of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Lucy Bernholz in memory of her aunt, Alice Sinkoff.

Henry Carrey in memory of his brother, David Carrey.

in memory of his bobe, FrahdI Herman Post.

in memory of his great-grandfather, Dovid-Hersh Herman.

Shari & John Carruthers in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Bob Gutterman in honor of Shaun Hannan.

Robert Daroff in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Paul & Victoria Ehrlich in support of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Karen Erlichman in support of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Jason Feinberg in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane in memory of Raymond Carlson. in memory of Helen Birdsell.

Denise Freinkel in appreciation of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Jonathan Funk in appreciation of Aaron Danzig's many contributions to Sha'ar Zahav.

Andy Fyne & Richard Mikles in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Ira Hirschfield & Tom Hansen in memory of Ray Carlson.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in honor of Isabel Lahn-Schroeder's bat mitzvah.

Joseph & Rosie Karp in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Rose Katz in memory of Raymond Carlson.

in memory of Sy Levine.

in memory of her father, Marvin J. Katz.

Walter Leiss

in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Ron Lezell in memory of his father, Sam Lezell.

in memory of Ray Carlson.

in memory of Joseph Levine.

Marc Lipschutz in memory of Raymond Carlson.

in memory of Bessie Ingersoll.

Barbara Lyss in honor of Shoshana Levenberg on her birthday.

Paul Margolis supporting the purchase of chair pads for our sanctuary.

Nancy Meyer In honor of Cantor Bernstein, Jonathan Funk, Sharyn Saslafsky and Karen Schiller.

Ron & Ruth Miguel in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Jeff Piade in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Helen Birdsell.

in memory of Joe Levine.

in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Hilda Rosenfeld

in memory of Sadie Rathenberg.

Sharyn Saslafsky

in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Erik Sikovitz in memory of his mother, Marion Sikovitz.

Rolly Slatt in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Susan Tubbesing in memory of her mother, Ann Kohout.

in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack in memory of Michael's grandfather, Eugene Lanter.

Jon Uysterlinde

Steve Weiner & Norm Dito in memory of Ray Carlson.

Lydia & David Zinn in memory of Lydia's mother, Sylvia Radovich.

Ami Zusman in memory of her father, Benjamin Herzl Saperstein.

in honor of Shoshana Levenberg's birthday.

Music in the Mishkan Donations

Irene Ogus

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Allan Berenstein in honor of the naming of Edward Woodward III.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in appreciation of Rebecca Weiner & the Etz Chayim Glee cast.

Pesach Seder Donations

Ilana Drummond & Diane Desmond

Rose Katz

Mark Oliver & Steve Polsky

Bill Smith

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

James Carlson in memory of Rick Brattin.

Jonathan Funk in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

in memory of his grandmother, Minnie Wiseman.

in appreciation of Cantor Bernstein's Fabulous Singing at Cantor Concert.

in appreciation of Sharyn Saslafsky, Karen Schiller & the Committee

for their hard work on Cantor Unplugged III.

Jonathan Funk, John Arnold & Evan

Arnold-Gordon in memory of Raymond Carlson.

Batya Kalis

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Batya Kalis in appreciation of

Rabbi Angel.

Scott Kramer

Joseph Steinfield in honor of Solomon Steinfield.

Lydia & David Zinn in memory of Joe Levine.

in memory of Raymond Carlson.

in memory of Helen Birdsell.

in honor of Laura Lowe.

Rainbow Fund 5770

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Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

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Ben Malakoff

Jeff Piade

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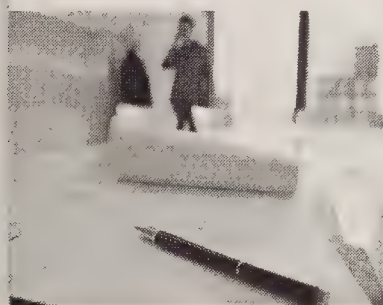
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Friday Night Live Family Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Kim, Justyn & Amira Lezin-Haveson** *In honor of Amira's 3rd birthday!*

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Don Fischer** *In honor of Spencer's 4th birthday!*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **A grant from the Legacy Heritage Foundation** *In celebration of Shabbat Simcha*

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Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Seth Lahn, uncle of Izze Lahn-Schroeder** *In honor of Izze becoming a bat mitzvah*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Jessie Sue Karnatz-Lazarus & Elias Lazarus** *In honor of the Hebrew naming of their son, Avi Karnatz Lazarus*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Ken Schroeder, grandfather of Izze Lahn-Schroeder** *In honor of Izze becoming a bat mitzvah*

19/20

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund** *In celebration of Cantor Unplugged III*

26/27

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Rose-Anne Donner Colt** *In memory of her father, Isaac Donner*

March**5/6**

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&

The Va'ad *In honor of Bring A Friend to Shabbat*

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Life Cycles

Mazel tov to the **Buchbinder family** on the Hebrew naming of Edward Wood-III, son of Emma Buchbinder and grandson of Diana Buchbinder. Edward received the Hebrew name Reuben ben Chanah bat Yehudit v'Dina.

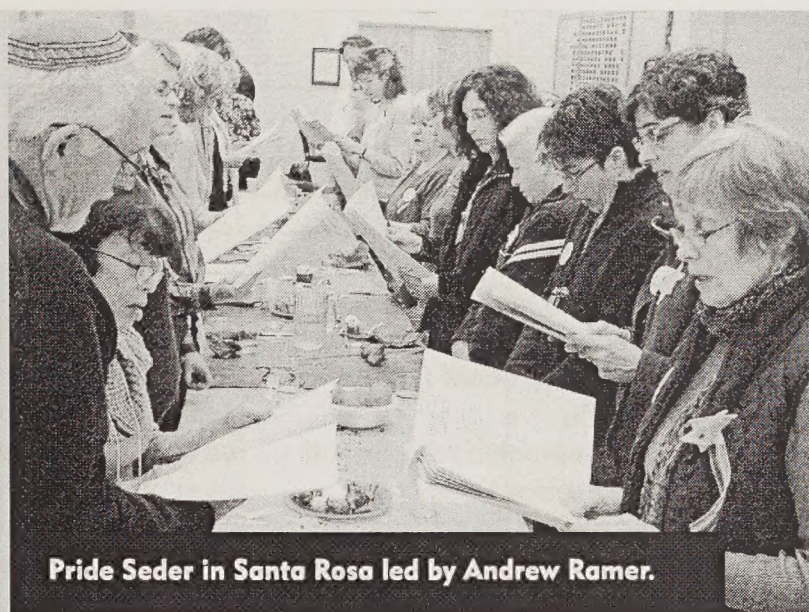
Mazel tov to the **Kfir Family** on the naming ceremony of Yaron and Ben's daughter, Ella, who received the Hebrew name Ella bat Yaron v'Ben.

Mazel tov to **Jessie Sue Karnatz-Lazarus** and **Eli Lazarus** on the Hebrew naming of their son, Avi Karnatz Lazarus, who received the Hebrew name Doron Chai.

Mazel Tov to **Kirsten Hansen** on the birth of her son Jeremiah Hansen, brother of Elijah Hansen, grandson of **Regina Wurst**, and nephew of **Ben Hansen**. Jeremiah was born on Monday night, March 22, and received the Hebrew name Yimeyahu.

Naches

Yashir Koach to **Alex Austin**, who was elected as the Secretary of the Board of Directors of a new Nonprofit Organiza-



Pride Seder in Santa Rosa led by Andrew Ramer.

tion entitled Public Benefits Attorneys.

Yashir Koach to **Karen Segal**, who has been awarded a Fulbright Grant in arts and humanities.

Yashir Koach to **Andrew Ramer**, who co-led an LGBT Pride Freedom Tu'Be-shavt Seder at Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa.

Yashir Koach to **Susan Lubeck**, who took the helm at Bay Area Progressive Jewish Alliance as their Interim Regional Director on March 1st.

the J entitled "Family Values Redefined: Children of Same-Sex Parents Enter the Battle for Marriage Equality."

Yashir Koach to **Richard Weiner** who just had a personal essay/book review entitled "South African Jews as the Silent Minority" in the Spring 2010 issue of *Jewish Currents*.

Yashir Koach to **Jo Ellen Green Kaiser** for Zeek's being accepted into UPSTART Bay Area - an incubator for Jewish Non Profits.

Yashir
Koach to **Dan Bellm** on his being featured at Lunch Poems-A Noontime Poetry Reading at UC Berkeley on February 4.
Yashir
Koach to **Ruby Cymrot-Wu** for her eloquent outspokenness in an article in

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Mentors Make Adults

WHAT MARKS our entry into adulthood? Do we become adults the first time we are called up to Torah? The first time we drive a car? Move out of our parents' home? Fall in love? Have our heart broken? Vote?

I love kids. Even though it has been over ten years for my niece Emily, and seven years for my nephew Evan, I can remember holding them as newborns, less than 24 hours old. I can't forget the heart-melting smell of a newborn, the bonding of them in my arms. Tiny, soft, totally dependent on adults.

Kids also seem to like me. I've been told that kids respond to me since I don't treat them as kids, but rather as equals. I suppose that goes back to my own childhood when I sensed that I was more mature, more intelligent, and more capable than some adults gave me credit.

The question that I ponder now, as a fifty-year-old (supposed) adult is: what really differentiates a youth from an adult? Perhaps it is idealism. Naïveté. Lack of major responsibility.

I have come to realize that being an adult is not simply about coming to terms with our limitations (both actual and imagined), but rather keeping our potential clearly in focus. There will always be distractions. As kids, we were often distracted: by fun games, snacks or imaginary adventures. As adults, distractions are more often self-made, as we are afraid to fully self-actualize and reach our potential.

There is a teaching by Rabbi Avraham Soltes on why an acorn becomes an oak rather than a hippopotamus. "There is

an inner drive in each of us, from whirling electrons to humans ourselves, urging us to become that which it is intended to be, to fulfill the pattern of its unique perfection." Most of us place our own road blocks, keeping us from fulfilling our full potential. Perhaps due to fear. Perhaps due to uncertainty. But if we have a mentor, or friend in our lives, someone whose hand we can symbolically feel like we hold, we can feel safer, and can move confidently along our path.

Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman teaches that "there comes a time in the development of ourselves, when receiving from others, which is the essence of selfishness, gives way to the irresistible urge to give to others – to grow beyond the limits of one's skin." That is what I am encouraging each of us to do. Become a mentor...help a child become an adult through an amazing and transformative part of their lives..

At Sha'ar Zahav we match adult congregants with b'nai Mitzvah students. Together the pair studies and learns about Torah, prayers, and how to write a drash. More importantly, through sharing life experiences, a loving and lasting bond is often built. I have been a mentor and loved being a part of one of our community's most unique and positive programs: mentoring youth on their path to adulthood.

I encourage you to become a part of this fulfilling and learning program. To engage in the gift of mentoring (in which you are sure to get more than you give) contact our Educator, Rebecca Weiner: rebweiner@gmail.com

May we all have a loving hand to hold as we walk along our paths, breaking through blocks to our full potential.

Shinui Class Studies How Jews from Other Countries Celebrate Judaism

By Jesse Felder Noily

When the Beit Sefer Phillis Mintzer unit changed from Jewish Life Cycles to Jews Around the World, Jaron and Kendra's Shinui class started studying how Jews in different countries celebrate Judaism.

"I really liked it because I like to know about Jews around the world," said Lilah Angel, a Shinui student. Jaron also agreed. "They [the students] seemed to enjoy the unit," said Jaron. "We discussed the meanings of community and ritual, how communities are created, and the

meaning of a 'Jewish journey.' We discussed metaphorical and actual Jewish journeys, as well as historical vs. modern Jewish journeys. We explored the Jewish journey through the calendar, the journey out of Egypt from slavery to freedom, and the journeys we all take to get to Sha'ar Zahav, to name a few."

"One time, someone came in and from Ethiopia and told us about little synagogues he went to in Ethiopia," said Lilah. "It was pretty interesting."

Jaron also seemed enthusiastic. "I love teach at Sha'ar Zahav. The families and students are great, and it's a wonderful community."

Condolences

extend our condolences to the following members on the death of their loved ones:

Michael Bettinger, on the death of his cousin, Eric Shuhandler

Jared Boigon, on the death of his grandfather, Irving Boigon

James Carlson, on the death of his father, Raymond Carlson

Alex Ingersoll, on the death of his aunt, Bessie Ingersoll

Aaron Levine, on the death of his father, Joe Levine

Jim Frazin, on the death of his mother, Helen Birdsell

Nancy Silverrod, on the death of her aunt, Joyce Cherin

Member Yahrzeits

May

- 9 Richard Inlander
- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 David Delroy
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 19 Allan Altman
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loebel

June

- 2 Mark B. Feldman
- 8 Robert Nehemiah Mackey
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 15 Barry Siegel
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 William E. Valentine
- 24 David Shaber

In Memory

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

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